(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Action is underway to procure and supply appropriate bi-lingual computer software to the offices of Ministry of External Affairs for enabling enhanced use of Hindi. This would also help in faster communication of messages and other texts in Hindi through the modern channels of communication, namely, E-mail and fax.

Non-Deposit of EPF of Employees

5083. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employers of Artherten Mill, Kanpur, U.P. have not deposited Rupees 2.40 crores of EPF of labourers and nor sent its audit report to the commissioner's office since 1991 resulting in loss of hope in the workers to receive their money;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any efforts for preparing the balance sheet depositing the amount of EPF and for distribution of salary in time; and

(c) if so, the time by which it will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Employers of Artherten Mill, Kanpur (UP) have not deposited the P.F. dues to the tune of about Rs. 2.50 crores and have also not submitted returns to P.F. Office since 1991-92.

(b) and (c) At present, the establishment is registered with BIFR for rehabilitation. While Government is fully committed to ensure payment of salary to the workers in time, at times there are delays in making such payments due to financial constrainsts . Account slips for the year 1990-91 have been issued to the employees. Account slips for the subsequent years can be issued only on receipt of the subscription from the management.

Outstanding Customs/Excise Duty

5084. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of outstanding Customs/Excise duty as on date;

(b) whether the Government machinery have failed to recover this outstanding amount of customs duty;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Implementation of Reservation

5085. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to draw a panel to review the measures being taken to fill up the reserved posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) It will not be in the public interest to give information in regard to composition, terms of reference etc. of the Cabinet Committee.

[English]

Implementation of Labour Laws in the Industries

5086. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether majority of industries in Delhi are not paying minimum wages to its workers and the labour courts had totally failed in their duty of implementing various labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to see that various labour laws are strictly implemented by the industrialists ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per information received from the Government of Dehi majority of industries in Delhi are paying minimum wages, though from time to time a few complaints regarding non-payment of minimum wages by the employers are also received.

(b) and (c) During the year 1996, 7194 complaints regarding non/less payment of minimum wages were received by the Government of Delhi. In 1187 cases, the employers rectified the shortcomings and an amount of Rs. 48,36, 495/- was got paid to the workers. The prosecutions were launched against 429 defaulting managements for violation of various provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. The enforcement machinery, in order to secure effective implementation of Minimum Wages Act, make regular inspection of the establishments covered under the Act and take necessary action whenever any violation of the Act comes to their notice.

Benami Accounts in Banks

5087. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Questions No. 432 and 1119 dated November 22, 1996 and February 28, 1997 regarding "Benami accounts in Banks" and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?